

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2484

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 9126

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BE, CG

SUBJECT: BELGIAN-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS: MPR VISIT; RESUMPTION OF  
BILATERAL TALKS

SUMMARY. BELGIAN GOVERNMENT TOOK ADVANTAGE OF VISIT OF DIRECTOR  
OF ZAIRIAN MPR POLITICAL BUREAU TO INITIATE TALKS ON BELGIAN-  
ZAIRIAN COOPERATION. MPR DELEGATION'S ATTENDANCE AT SOCIALIST  
PARTY TOOK PLACE WITH ONLY MINOR INCIDENT. ACEC-WESTINGHOUSE COURTED  
DELEGATION, POSSIBLY WITH EYE TO FURTHER INVOLVEMENT IN UNGA,  
EALIER  
REPORTS THAT FORMER REBEL GIZENGA HAD ENTERED BELGIUM PROVED TO BE  
CORRECT. END SUMMARY.

1. DIRECTOR OF MPR POLITICAL BUREAU NGUZA KARL-I-  
-BOND VISITED BELGIUM NOVEMBER 13-20 AS HEAD OF PARTY DELEGATION  
TO BELGIAN SOCIALIST PARTY'S DOCTRINAL CONGRESS (NOV 16-17).  
DELEGATION INCLUDED MPR POLITICAL COMMISSIONER MPINGA KASENDA,  
POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER MPANU MPANU BIDANDU, AND STATE COMMISSIONER FOR  
FINANCE BARUTI WA NDWALI. IN ADDITION TO CONGRESS, SOCIALIST

HOSTS PROGRAMMED VISIT TO ACEC-WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRICAL EQUIP-  
MENT PLANT IN WALLONIA, GIVING RISE TO REPORTS THAT FRANCOPHONE  
ELEMENT OF SOCIALIST PARTY WAS MOTIVATED IN INVITING MPR, AND  
FORMER PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON IN VISITING ZAIRE, BY DESIRE TO  
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ENHANCE PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER ACEC PARTICIPATION IN INGA PROJECT.

ONLY ANTI-MPR INCIDENT AT CONGRESS TOOK PLACE WHEN LEADER OF FLEMISH YOUNG SOCIALISTS DREW IRE OF CONGRESS CHAIRMAN BY DECLARING THAT THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR MPR AT CONGRESS. MPR DELEGATES WERE NOT IN ROOM AT THAT TIME.

2. GOB ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF VISIT TO MAKE OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH NGUZA. FOREIGN MINISTRY AFRICA DIRECTOR LEBRUN WAS ON HAND TO GREET DELEGATION AT AIRPORT, WHERE HE INVITED THEM TO MEET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE. NGUZA, MPINGA, AND AMBASSADOR ELEBE MET AT LENGTH WITH VAN ELSLANDE ON NOVEMBER 14 AND NOVEMBER 19. BELGIAN PRESS SPOKESMAN SAID AFTER MEETINGS THAT TWO SIDES HAD DISCUSSED BELGIAN INTERESTS IN ZAIRE AND "SURVEYED QUESTIONS RELATING TO COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE AND ADJUSTMENTS WHICH SHOULD BE MADE IN EXISTING AGREEMENTS TO MEET ZAIRE'S NEEDS AND MAKE BELGIAN SUPPORT AN ELEMENT OF PARTICIPATION IN ZAIRE'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN". HE ADDED THAT DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE CONTINUED IN KINSHASA BETWEEN BELGIAN AMBASSADOR AND MPR LEADERS. AFRICA DIRECTOR LEBRUN TOLD US NOV 20 THAT, IN PRACTICE, SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT MEANS THAT MEETINGS WITH NGUZA RESULTED IN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS ON COOPERATION INTERRUPTED EARLIER THIS YEAR. WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S APPROVAL, PREPARATIONS AT TECHNICAL LEVEL WILL PREPARE WAY FOR TALKS BETWEEN MINISTERS. FINAL STEP BEFORE MOVING TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL MAY BE MEETING OF HIGH-LEVEL "PERSONALITIES". WE INFERRED FROM LEBRUN'S REMARKS THAT "PERSONALITY" ON BELGIAN SIDE WOULD BE VISCOUNT DAVIGNON, FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS. LEBRU SAID THAT BELGIANS DO NOT SEE NEED FOR RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF BI-ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, BUT FEEL INSTEAD THAT MEETINGS SHOULD BE ARRANGED AT INTERVALS AND AT LEVELS AS SITUATION REQUIRES.

3. LEBRUN NOTED THAT, FOR BELGIAN, MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN TALKS WILL BE PROGRESS ON COMPENSATION FOR EXPROPRIATED BELGIAN PROPERTIES. HE SAW BELGIAN-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS AS BEING IN REASONABLE SHAPE AND AS IMPROVING DESPITE MISUNDERSTANDING CAUSED BY LEBURTON'S VISIT. HE SAID THAT ZAIRIANS HAD GIVEN SEVERAL INFORMAL SIGNS IN RECENT WEEKS OF DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. HE CITED AS EXAMPLE RESULT BROUGHT BY VAN ELSLAND'S COMMENT TO NGUZA LAST WEEK THAT AMBASSADOR KERREMANS HAD NOT BEEN ABLE RECENTLY TO SEE ZAIRIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER UMBA DI LUTETE. KERREMANS  
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HAD APPOINTMENT AND WAS INVITED TO DINNER BY UMBA WITHIN 24 HOURS.

4. QUERIED ABOUT REPEATED PRESS REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD ERRED REGARDING PRESENCE OF FORMER ZAIRIAN REBEL ANTOINE GIZENGA IN BELGIUM. LEBRUN SAID THAT ACCORDING TO LATEST INFORMATION, GIZENGA HAD INDEED ENTERED BELGIUM WITH FALSE PASSPORT ABOUT NOV 8 OR 9 BUT HAD LEFT COUNTRY BEFORE HE COULD BE APPREHENDED.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE CONTROVERSY LEBURTON'S VISIT TO ZAIRE CAUSED IN BELGIAN POLITICS AND TEMPORARY IRRITATION ARISING IN BELGIAN-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS, LEBURTON'S INITIATIVE SEEMS TO HAVE RESULTED IN SMOKING OUT BOTH SIDES, NEITHER OF WHICH WANTED TO APPEAR TO BE "DEMANDEUR" FOR RESUMED TALKS ON COOPERATION, AND THUS SPEEDED PROCESS OF GETTING TALKS UNDERWAY. IN FACT, ALTHOUGH SYSTEMATIC PREPARATION WAS LACKING, VAN ELSLANDE- NGUZA MEETINGS MIGHT BE REGARDED AS FIRST OF RESUMED TALKS. FIRESTONE

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